

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 11, 19, 20 and 38-42 are pending. By the present amendment, claims 11 and 19-20 have been amended, new claims 38-42 have been added and claims 2-10, 12, 13, 15-18, 21, and 23-37 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 2-13, 15-21 and 23-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Englund et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,197,474, hereinafter "Englund") in view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,928,148, hereinafter "Wang") and further in view of Jakob et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,232, hereinafter "Jakob") is respectfully traversed. Without acquiescing in the rejection, it is noted that claims 2-10, 12, 13, 15-18, 21 and 23-37 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection will be discussed with respect to pending claims 11, 19 and 20.

The pending claims of the instant application recite use of an unfolding technique for processing the image data. The claims recite that the data for sensitivity distributions of a reception RF coil employed by the system are acquired at different positions of the couch with respect to the magnet (e.g., static magnetic field generating means) so that plural sensitivity distributions required by the unfolding process are obtained.

The couch is arranged to move while the magnet is stationary. Therefore, the couch is made to be located at each of the different positions having geometries with respect to the magnet that differ from each other. See, for example, specification, page 27, lines 19-26, which describes that the sensitivity distribution of a whole-body coil can be changed relative [to the couch that is an imaging region of an object on the couch] by moving the couch. This is akin to the situation in which the same imaging region of an object is scanned with different sensitivity distributions of plural coils.

The Office Action alleges that Jakob discloses the use of the claimed unfolding performing means. However, it is respectfully noted that Jakob fails to disclose the acquisition of sensitivity distributions from data acquires at different position of a couch with respect to a magnet, as set forth in the claims. According to Jakob, coil sensitivities are developed by acquiring additional auto-calibration signals (see, e.g., Col. 21, lines 39-51), which is entirely different from the claimed invention. Therefore, Jakob fails to overcome the admitted deficiencies of the primary reference to Englund. Accordingly, even if, *arguendo*, the combination of Jakob with Englund and Wang were proper, the combination nevertheless fails to render the claimed invention obvious. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

KUHARA

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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